

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A process for the manufacture of omega form of anhydrous Gatifloxacin which comprises:

- a) purifying Gatifloxacin by dissolving it in methanolic potassium hydroxide solution;
- b) filtering said solution obtained in step (a);
- c) adding an acid to said solution from step (b) to precipitate Gatifloxacin in a suspension;
- d) refluxing said suspension of step (c) and cooling the same;
- e) filtering and drying the product of step (d) to obtain said omega form of anhydrous Gatifloxacin.

2. (original) A process for the manufacture of omega form of anhydrous Gatifloxacin which comprises ::

- a.) reacting 1-cyclopropyl-6, 7-difluoro-1, 4-dihydro-8-methoxy-4-oxo-3-quinolone carboxylic acid with 2-methylpiperazine in dimethylsulfoxide ;
- b.) adding a suitable organic solvent to the above reaction mass;
- c.) filtering and/or centrifuging the the product of step b) to isolate the product;
- d.) adding a lower alcohol to the isolated product to form a slurry;
- e.) filtering and/or centrifuging the slurry to obtain a wet cake of Gatifloxacin;

- f.) drying the above wet cake of Gatifloxacin ;
- g.) purifying the above Gatifloxacin by dissolving it in methanolic potassium hydroxide solution;
- h.) filtering the solution obtained in step (g);
- i.) adding an acid to the solution from step (h) to precipitate Gatifloxacin in a suspension ;
- j.) refluxing the suspension of step (i) and cooling the same;
- k.) filtering and/or centrifuging the product and drying the product to obtain omega form of anhydrous Gatifloxacin.

3. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step b), the organic solvent employed is selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetonitrile, ethyl acetate, isopropyl alcohol, and toluene or mixture thereof.

4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step (b) the organic solvent is employed in 1-10 times, preferably 5 times by volume as that of dimethylsulfoxide taken.

5. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step (d) said lower alcohol is methanol.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said lower alcohol is employed in an amount of 1-10 times by volume, preferably 2-5 times by volume, as that of 1-cyclopropyl-6,7-difluoro-1, 4-dihydro-8-methoxy-4-oxo-3-quinolone carboxylic acid.

7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step d), the slurrying in methanol is carried out on at a temperature of 10-65°C, preferably 25-40°C.

8. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the product of step e) is dried at a temperature of 40-75°C, preferably 50-60°C

9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 8~~ wherein the product obtained after drying and/or centrifuging is dried for 4-10 hrs, preferably 6-7 hrs.

10. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the purification of Gatifloxacin is carried out by dissolving gatifloxacin in methanolic potassium hydroxide solution while heating at a temperature of 20-100°C, preferably 25-40°C.

11. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the amount of potassium hydroxide employed is 1-2 moles, preferably 1.2 moles as that of Gatifloxacin.

12. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~ wherein prior to the precipitation of said Gatifloxacin as a suspension, the pH of the solution is adjusted to between 6-8, preferably, 7-7.5.

13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein said pH is adjusted by adding acetic acid.

14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1-~~or claim 2~~ wherein said suspension is refluxed with methanol for 0.5-5.0 hours, preferably for 1.0 hour.

15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein the reaction mass obtained after refluxing in methanol is cooled to a temperature of 5-50°C, preferably 25-30°C.

16. (original) A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein in step g), the amount of methanol employed is 5-15 times, preferably 10 times as that of Gatifloxacin.

17. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~ (e) wherein said drying is carried out at a temperature in the range of 30-100°C, preferably 70-80°C.

18. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1-~~or claim 2~~ wherein said drying of wet cake is carried out for 10-50 hrs, preferably 30-35 hrs.

19. (original) A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the gatifloxacin so obtained is further treated with solvent systems.

20. (original) A process as claimed in claim 20 wherein said solvent systems comprise of one or more of methanol, aqueous methanol or cyclohexane.